

Clean Air Council Delaware Riverkeeper Network

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2015

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Stay Issued To Prevent Drilling in Middlesex Township While Legal Challenge Proceeds

Butler, PA: Monday, July 13, 2015, attorneys representing the Clean Air Council, Delaware Riverkeeper Network and residents of Middlesex Township received notice that the Honorable Dr. S. Michael Yeager of the Court of Common Pleas in Butler County issued a stay to put on hold “any and all activity relative to unconventional natural gas development” being conducted by Rex Energy at the Geyer Well Site in Middlesex Township, Butler County, PA. The zoning ordinance opening up Middlesex Township to widespread gas drilling, under which the Geyer Well Site drilling permit was issued, is also stayed, and the requirement that the residents and groups challenging the drilling project post a bond was rescinded. The stay takes effect immediately.

The Court also ordered that the Middlesex Zoning Hearing Board, Middlesex Township, Robert G. Geyer, and Rex Energy be allowed an opportunity to demonstrate why a stay should not be allowed with written responses to be filed within thirty days, and oral argument scheduled for September 18.

Middlesex Township residents, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and the Clean Air Council sought the stay to prevent drilling in the Township while they presented their arguments to the Court on the impropriety of the decision by the Middlesex Township Zoning Hearing Board denying the residents’ and organizations’ legal challenge to Middlesex Township’s zoning changes and the Township’s permit for the Geyer Well Site.

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